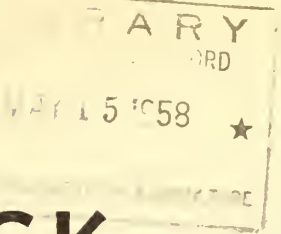


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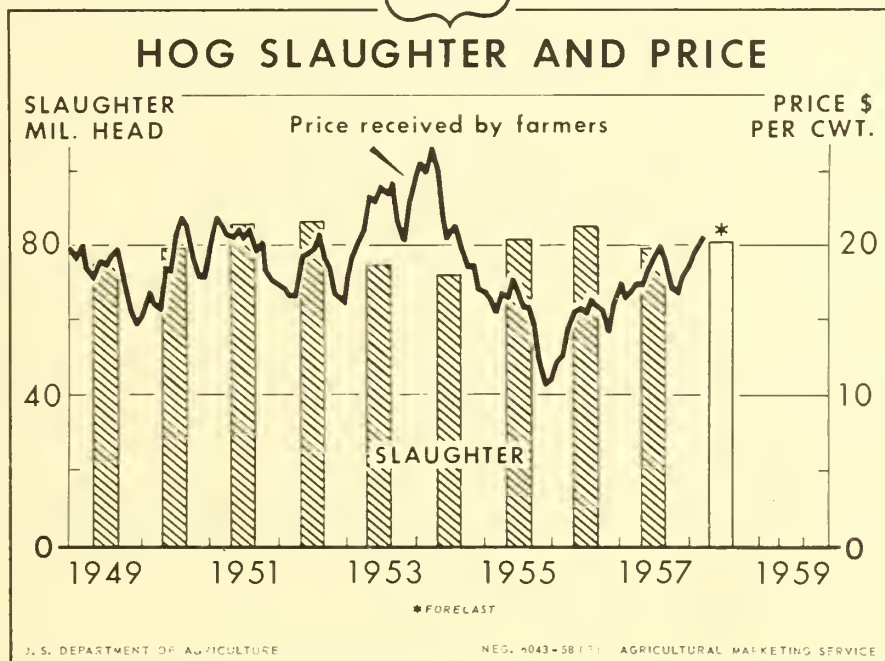
May 1958
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MAY 13, A. M.

The

LIVESTOCK and MEAT SITUATION

LMS-95

In this issue:
Prospects for Hogs
Statistics on Foreign Trade
Rank of States in Meat
Animal Production, 1957



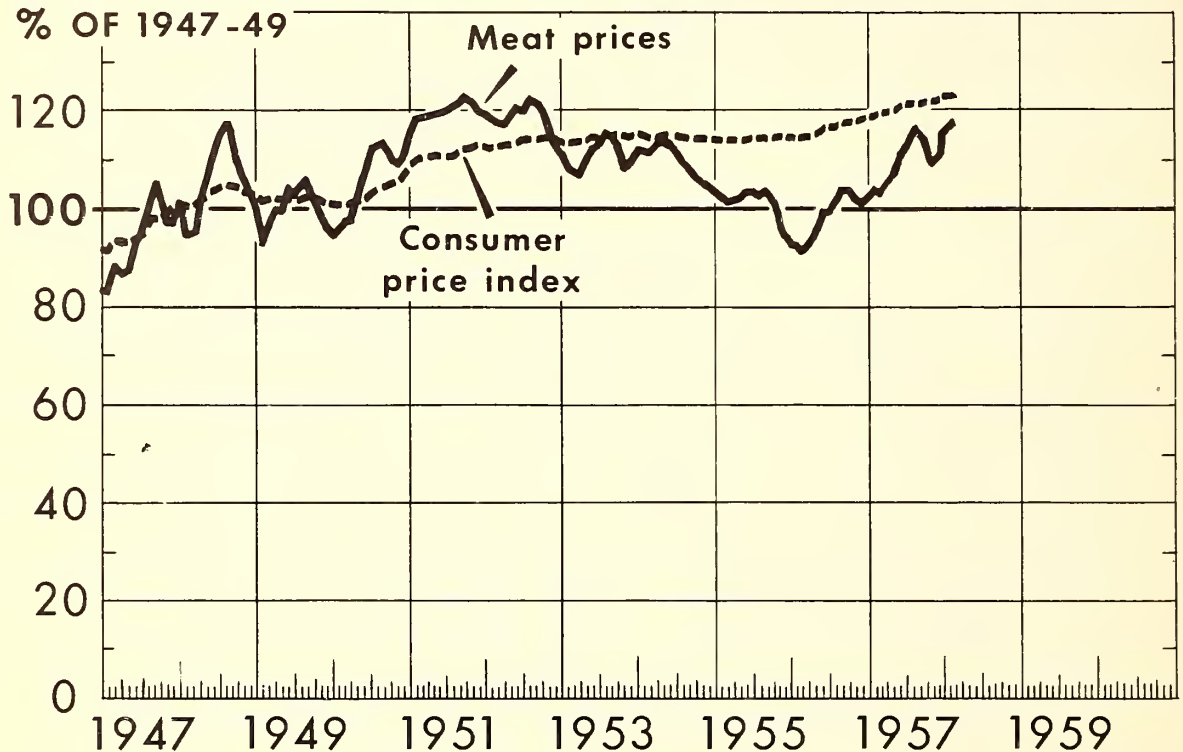
Prices of hogs have been highly variable since World War II, fluctuating between \$10.50 and \$27.00. Production also has varied, but the reaction of price to changes in pro-

duction and slaughter has been sharper since the war than before.

Swings in hog production and price are taking on the pattern of a cycle. (See page 14.)

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MEAT AND ALL RETAIL PRICES



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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Prices of meat at retail have increased rather steadily since early in 1956. In March-April 1958 they were the highest since 1952. However, they were still short of previous peaks. And although meat prices had followed the trend of the Consumer Price Index from 1947 to 1953, they failed to increase along

with that index beginning in 1953. In March 1958 they were 4 percent below the Consumer Price Index.

Retail meat prices are expected to decline somewhat in the second half of 1958, when larger marketings of fed cattle and hogs than a year earlier are expected.

THE LIVESTOCK AND MEAT SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, May 6, 1958

SUMMARY

Prices of meat animals advanced steadily last winter and in early spring were generally the highest since the peaks of several years ago.

The price strength was due to a combination of (1) delayed marketings for slaughter following big feed crops, and (2) a withholding of breeding stock for herd expansion. Because of these factors, which were true for all three species, livestock slaughter in January-April averaged about 9 percent below 1957. Also, demand for meat has held up well, despite some decline in employment and consumer income.

The delay in marketings is temporary and will end soon. By late April lamb and hog slaughter had climbed above last year, and fed cattle marketings had begun to rise. By mid-summer hog slaughter will be appreciably above last year, and it will be moderately above throughout the second half of 1958. Fed cattle marketings are expected to increase further in late spring and they too will probably exceed a year earlier in the second half.

These upturns in supply will bring some reductions in prices. But the drop is not expected to be great, chiefly because continued withholding of breeding stock for inventory expansion will prevent large changes in supply. Increases in inventory during 1958 will probably be fairly sizable for hogs and sheep. The inventory of cattle on farms might increase slightly on January 1, 1959, and if this occurs it will end the cyclical decline after two years, the shortest on record.

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Prices of hogs may remain fairly steady until mid-summer, when they normally are highest, and then decline. Their total fall reduction will not be unusually large, as the expected increase of 5 to 6 percent in the 1958 spring pig crop is being largely confined to the December-February farrowing season. By late fall hog prices will probably not be far below the lowest price received last fall. Prices of fed steers are expected to decline moderately until summer and then to level out, probably near those of last summer. A seasonal drop in prices of feeder cattle is likely as fed steers trend down. Lamb prices may recover from their April low and then decline seasonally, and seem likely to average near the levels of last year.

If withholding of cattle should develop too fast it could create a cattle price spiral, as each successive price advance would stimulate further withholding to speed expansion. Although it seems likely that marketings of fed cattle will dampen any growing boom, past experience indicates that the danger is not absent, and merits attention.

Prolonged advances in cattle prices similar to those of 1949-51 are not expected, and not justified, because cattle numbers and beef supplies are so much larger now than then. If cattle numbers do start upward this year, the uptrend will start from 94 million, the January 1958 inventory. This is 17 million more than the 77 million in January 1949, at the beginning of the last cyclical expansion. Moreover, a surge in demand such as occurred in 1950-52 during the Korean conflict is not expected during the next few years.

The 1958 fall pig crop may increase about 7 to 10 percent, and when marketed in the spring of 1959 will bring considerably lower prices than this spring. But prices probably will still be favorable in relation to prices of corn, and profitable to most hog producers. There is more danger of severe price decline for hogs farrowed in the spring of 1959 than for those of this fall.

Supplies of fed beef to consumers will increase this spring. Pork supplies will rise in late summer and early fall. The year's total meat output, however, may be around 3 percent less than last year, and consumption per person is forecast at 151 pounds compared with last year's 159 pounds. Retail prices of meat in January-March were 15 percent above a year before. A reduction of 9 percent in meat supplies per person more than offset the effect of a slight reduction in consumer income. Retail prices of Choice beef will probably decline beginning this spring and of pork beginning about mid-summer, and the all-meat average will be closer to year-earlier levels.

REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

Meat Animal Prices Up

Prices of most meat animals advanced during the winter and by early spring were the highest for several years. Prices of Choice steers, Utility cows, and feeder cattle were higher than at any time since 1952, and of hogs since 1954. Lamb prices were a bit short of the top prices received in 1957 but otherwise were the highest since 1954.

Slaughter Rates Below 1957

Higher prices to date in 1958 have resulted in large measure from reduced slaughter. In January-April, commercial slaughter of cattle was 10 percent less than a year before (April slaughter is estimated from weekly inspected slaughter). Calf slaughter was down 16 percent, sheep and lamb slaughter, off 8 percent, and hog slaughter, down 5-6 percent.

Although the smaller inventories of livestock on farms at the beginning of 1958 explain some of the reduction in slaughter, more important is the general withholding action that has developed rapidly in recent months. Producers of each species of meat animals are holding back stock for herd expansion. Increases in year-end inventory now seem to be underway for cattle, hogs and sheep.

Lateness in receipt of fed cattle added further to the low slaughter rate for cattle in the first few months of 1958. Fed cattle marketings from major feeding States in January-March were 8 percent below 1957. While an unhurried fed cattle movement is typical of the present rising-price phase of the cattle cycle, the tendency last winter was even greater because cattle went on feed later than usual last fall. (See page 8.)

In the January-March quarter, total meat production was 8 percent less than a year before. Increased imports and a reduction in exports offset less than one percent of this decrease. Supplies available to consumers were down about $7\frac{1}{2}$ percent, and consumption per person 9 percent. This drop in supplies exceeded by far the effects of a slightly weaker demand, and it laid the base of a higher level of prices for both meat and meat animals.

Cow, Heifer, Steer, Calf
Slaughter Down

Slaughter of each class of cattle has been reduced in 1958 to date. For January-March, reductions were 16 percent for cows, 6 percent for heifers, 11 percent for steers, and 16 percent for calves (table 1).

Table 1.--Number of cattle and calves slaughtered under Federal inspection, by class, January-March 1958 compared with 1957

Month	Cows		Heifers		Steers		Calves	
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>
January	477	579	249	296	877	944	547	657
February	365	433	245	266	678	765	468	550
March	373	428	258	236	706	822	521	632
Total	1,215	1,440	752	798	2,261	2,531	1,536	1,839

Last fall, cattle producers began to hold back cows from slaughter. They have continued to do so since, and by spring the demand for replacement cows had become exceedingly active. Prices of cows and heifers have been substantially above a year ago, contributing to the higher level of prices for all cattle.

Renewed enthusiasm in retaining breeding stock, an unmistakable sign of expansionary psychology in the cattle industry, has been spurred by the rising prices of the past year. Also a big factor has been the recovery of ranges and pastures. Range conditions changed from severe drought in 1956 to lushness in 1957, for one of the sharpest turn-about in memory.

Prospects for luxuriant grass in 1958 continue. The April 1 Western Range and Livestock Report stated that April 1 range feed conditions equalled or exceeded those for any other year since 1942. "Surface moisture supplies are adequate to start grass in all areas. In addition, subsoil moisture and stock water supplies are the most favorable for many years, except for some local areas in the Northern Plains. All that is needed to make this one of the best spring grazing seasons on record is sunshine and warm weather."

Table 2.—Cattle on feed 13 States: Number at beginning of quarter and marketings during quarter, 1955 to date

Year	Number on feed			
	January-	April-	July-	October-
	March	June	September	December
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>
1955	4,934	4,483	3,674	3,504
1956	4,958	4,222	3,397	3,618
1957	5,161	4,375	3,678	3,211
1958	4,993	4,896		
Marketings				
1955	2,176	2,193	2,269	2,337
1956	2,464	2,363	2,166	2,319
1957	2,509	2,280	2,370	2,255
1958	2,310			
Marketings as a percentage of number on feed				
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Percent</u>
1955	44.1	48.9	61.8	66.7
1956	49.7	56.0	63.8	64.1
1957	48.6	52.1	64.4	70.2
1958	46.3			

When grass is so good, young stock as well as breeding stock are retained. Calf slaughter is down from last year. Even the reduction in steer slaughter results to a degree from the good grass, as some light-weight or medium-weight steers will be returned to grazing before being finished for market this fall.

Still another factor in reduced slaughter and higher prices of cattle is continued strong demand for feeder cattle. Demand for feeders to utilize the abundant feed supplies continued unabated through early spring. Stocks of feed on farms (not counting that under government loan) have been exceptionally large.

Fed Cattle Slaughter Down, Inventories Up

Rising prices of fed cattle have been a major part of the growing boom attitude. Their future course may have much to do with fueling the flame further, or damping it a bit.

Choice steers at Chicago reached an average of \$30.52 the week of March 29. This was more than \$8.00 above a year before. In early May prices were around \$29.00.

Higher fed cattle prices were not caused by any cutback in the total volume of cattle feeding. Rather, feeding at the beginning of 1958 was already large, though cattle were of lighter weight, and has since grown to record volume. The number of cattle on feed January 1 was within 3 percent of a year before, both for the U. S. and for the 13 leading States for which further data are reported quarterly. In those 13 States, 28 percent more cattle were placed on feed during January-March this year than last. As marketings were down 8 percent, the April 1 inventory climbed to 12 percent above a year before. It was a record high for the date (table 2).

This high inventory suggests that a sizable volume of marketings is likely in coming months. However, the size of the inventory can overstate the probable rate of marketings in a year of long feeding and delayed marketings. There is much flexibility in feeding of cattle, and the relationship of marketings to inventory can vary considerably from year to year. Three-State data in table 3 show this to be true. The marketings-inventory ratio was low in 1951 to 1953, and high in 1956 and 1957 when prices were low and cattle were turned over quickly in feedlots.

Table 3.--Marketings of fed cattle during year as a percentage of number on feed January 1, 3 States, 1949 to date 1/

Year	:	Percentage	::	Year	:	Percentage
	:	<u>Percent</u>	::		:	<u>Percent</u>
1949	:	173	::	1954	:	166
1950	:	170	::	1955	:	172
1951	:	160	::	1956	:	181
1952	:	159	::	1957	:	178
1953	:	143	::		:	

1/ Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska.

Hence, while the 12 percent more cattle on feed April 1 is a warning to feeders, it does not imply a price collapse. In view of the strong cyclical factors at work which are slowing down the overall rates of cattle marketing, prospective price declines for fed cattle during 1958 now appear likely to be smaller than previously indicated.

Moreover, declines will be later than heretofore expected. The April 1 cattle on feed report showed that cattle had been brought along unusually slowly. On that date only 2 percent more cattle weighing 900 pounds or more were on feed, while the number of those under 900 pounds was up 16 percent from a year earlier. Feeders intended to market only 42 percent before July 1. Last year, intentions were to market 47 percent by that date, and last year's actual April-June marketings were 52 percent of the April 1 inventory (table 2). Even if marketings exceed intentions again this year, they will probably not equal last year's actual percentage. The volume of April-June marketings from 13 States may be about the same as the 2.3 million of a year ago, a not especially large number (table 2).

Fed cattle inventories remaining for marketing in the second half of 1958 will exceed last year by a considerable margin. Even though the added supply provided by short-feds may be down, total second-half fed cattle marketings will probably surpass last year. Consequently the outlook points to a gradual price decline this spring that may last well into the summer. Prospects are poor for a seasonal late-summer recovery. More probable is a fairly stable price most of the remaining months of the year. It is possible that prices this year will drift down to or below last summer's peaks, which for Choice steers at Chicago were about \$25.75. In any event the margin over a year earlier will certainly be narrowed a great deal.

The strength of consumer demand for beef will be an influence on prices. Although the drop in demand has been small and has been overshadowed by reduced supplies of meat, continued declines in income would eventually have a noticeable price effect.

Cyclical Downswing
in Cattle Numbers May
be Ending

The trends described above--retaining more cows and heifers for breeding, holding more calves, and slowing down the rate of feeding and marketing fed cattle -- mark the beginning of the expansionary phase of the cattle cycle.

Cattle and calf slaughter may be reduced sufficiently in 1958 so that the inventory number on January 1, 1959 will show a small gain over 1958. If this proves true, the cyclical reduction will have lasted only two years, the shortest on record.

Cyclical expansions in cattle are built fundamentally on progressive increases in breeding herds and in the size of the calf crop. No expansion can proceed very far without a substantial enlargement of the breeding herd.

But short-term increases in inventory can arise also from a slow-down in the rate of marketing young slaughter cattle. Part of the cattle boom psychology in 1958 has been generated by reduced slaughter of calves, steers and heifers. These short-term developments can create a misleading and hazardous situation, for one of the features of a cattle boom is that for a time it can feed on itself. The price strength derived from reduced marketings creates added price confidence. This can spiral to dangerous heights.

Moreover, the extent and duration of a boom period is virtually unpredictable, as it is not related to basic economic factors. The most crucial question in the present cattle outlook is whether an inordinate price spiral is underway.

It is too soon to suppose that this is true. It is not yet time to become alarmed about shakiness of prices and imminence of price collapse. This report is made not as comment on current prices but as a warning as to future trends that, based on past experience, could conceivably develop.

Prices and incomes for cattle are likely to be sustained well the next several years when herds are rebuilt. Unless an artificial boom psychology gets out of bounds, fast increases will be prevented by both short-term and longer term forces. The short-term factor is the large marketings and declining prices of fed cattle that are expected the remainder of this spring and during the summer. Longer term factors relate to differences between the present situation and that of 1949 -- differences that could have much bearing on the outlook for the next several years.

First difference is that cattle numbers have not been reduced as much this time as in the 1945-49 cyclical decline. In those four years the cow herd was decreased 4.4 million head or 10 percent, and the total cattle herd fell 8.7 million or 10 percent. If the current downswing ends this year, the reduction in cows will have been 1.9 million or 4 percent, and in all cattle 2.8 million or 3 percent. The last increase started from 77 million cattle. If an increase is now beginning, it is starting from 94 million. Furthermore, productivity of the cattle herd has increased in the meantime.

If cattle inventories should be built up as fast in the next four years as they were in 1949-53, beef output would be raised to a level exceeding all previous records. The 1949-53 expansion brought sharp price declines in 1953-56. In a similar experience now, the price reaction would be even more severe than then. There is no justification for repeating the unrestrained optimism of 1949-51 -- which itself proved false.

A second difference between the present situation and that of 1949 has to do with demand. Apart from the question of levels of employment and industrial activity in 1958, it is improbable that a new cattle expansion will be sparked by such a burst in demand as occurred during the Korean conflict of 1950-53.

The outlook would seem to warrant a gradual expansion in cattle herds, but not an extremely fast one. And if a widespread drought should reappear, or if consumer demand for beef should be reduced greatly by severe economic recession, the expansion now getting underway would probably be stopped quickly. The present cattle inventory is too large to make an uninterrupted cyclical expansion certain, irrespective of changing circumstances.

Demand for Breeding Stock
to Remain Strong; Seasonal Price
Decline Likely in Feeder Cattle

Barring drought or severe drop in demand for meat, demand and prices for breeding stock will likely remain strong for some time. In a favorable setting the cyclical increase in breeding herds, only recently begun, would likely continue for a few years.

Prices of feeder cattle have moved steadily higher since the fall of 1956, with only a brief interruption early last fall. Their gain over the period has been \$10.00 or more per 100 pounds. This increase is considerably more than has occurred in slaughter cattle prices. Although feeder prices normally change more than slaughter prices, declining costs of feed and good ranges and pastures have added to the price rise for both stockers and feeders.

Prices of feeder cattle in 1958 will be unusually sensitive to trends in prices of slaughter steers. Feeder cattle are selling at so narrow a price margin with fed steers that any decline in steers will bring a response in feeders.

Thus if the expected reduction in fed cattle prices materializes, seasonal decreases in prices of feeder cattle also may be expected.

Feeder prices will, as always, be affected by the prospects for feed crop harvests this summer and fall. No indication of feed crop production is available as yet.

Lamb Prices Decline

Prices of lambs, unlike other meat animals, declined following a mid-winter high. Until April they were above last year, but by late April they were slightly below.

Delay in marketing of lambs, similar to that in cattle and hogs, apparently was a factor in the early price strength and later declines. Near the end of the feeding season, big supplies of overweight lambs in some areas contributed to price weakness. Unlike last year when sheep and lamb slaughter decreased sharply from January to April, the slaughter rate this April virtually equalled that of January. Federally inspected slaughter in January was 20 percent below a year before, but in April it was 8 percent larger.

Prices of lambs may recover from this April low, then decline seasonally, and the rest of the year are expected to compare favorably with a year earlier. They may sometimes be higher, sometimes lower.

Continued strong demand for ewe lambs to build up breeding flocks will give support to prices. How well cattle prices hold up will also be a big influence on lamb price trends.

Lamb Feeding Profits Above Average

Profits in feeding lambs in the Corn Belt this past winter were above average. In the standard feeding program of table 4, a \$3.00 higher price (per 100 pounds) paid for feeder lambs was more than compensated by a higher price received for slaughter lambs and lower costs of feed. The \$4.00 margin of values over enumerated costs includes a rough estimate of wool payments to be received in the 1957-58 year. It is well above the average margin of previous years.

Profits were lowest on lambs sold late. However, wool payments after April 1 will be determined by wool prices in the new wool marketing year beginning that date. If the rate of payment should be larger than for last year, this increase would offset some of the decline in lamb prices.

Table 4.--Average price and values of important items affecting returns from lamb feeding, 1952-57

Item	Feeding year beginning December					
	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Prices						
Choice and Prime slaughter lambs, Chicago, December-March, per 100 pounds	22.49	22.10	21.64	19.61	21.26	<u>1</u> /23.67
Good and Choice feeder lambs, Omaha, September-December, per 100 pounds	21.01	17.05	17.68	17.64	18.42	21.32
Corn, North Central States, October-March, per bushel	1.417	1.363	1.357	1.143	1.182	.934
Alfalfa hay, received by farmers, North Central States, October-March, per ton	24.58	22.83	21.43	19.58	20.32	16.23
Receipts, per head						
Sale of Choice and Prime lamb, 85 pounds	19.12	18.78	18.39	16.67	18.07	20.12
Wool payments	---	---	---	.65	.60	<u>2</u> /.34
Total	19.12	18.78	18.39	17.32	18.67	20.46
Cost, per head						
Feeder lamb, 60 pounds	12.61	10.23	10.61	10.58	11.05	12.79
Corn, 2½ bushels	3.54	3.41	3.39	2.86	2.96	2.34
Alfalfa hay, 150 pounds	1.84	1.71	1.61	1.47	1.52	1.22
Total for items shown <u>2</u> /	17.99	15.35	15.61	14.91	15.53	16.35
Margin, value over costs shown <u>3</u> /	1.13	3.43	2.78	2.41	3.14	4.11

1/ Choice lambs beginning January 1958.

2/ Rough estimate based on April 1957-January 1958 prices received by growers for shorn wool.

3/ Does not include purchasing or marketing expenses, labor cost, death losses, overhead costs or costs of other feed ingredients, or credits for manure. The prices shown are averages for the lamb feeding season for the North Central region, and do not necessarily coincide with the experience of individual feeders.

PROSPECTS FOR HOGS

Smaller Slaughter About
to End; Price Declines
Not to be Severe

In the first four months of 1958, inspected slaughter of hogs was 6 percent below 1957. The reduction was sharpest in February and March. April slaughter was about 1 or 2 percent less than April 1957, and by the end of the month slaughter had crept up to its year-earlier level.

Slaughter in late spring and early summer is expected to equal last year and may exceed it somewhat. Thereafter, slaughter will be above last year.

Increased slaughter beginning in late summer will reflect the increase in the number of pigs born in the spring of 1958, particularly in early months of the season. Farmers' intentions last fall were to have 6 percent more sows to farrow this spring than last. According to a March report from 10 States they have conformed to their intentions fairly well. However, losses of pigs may have been greater this year than last. In parts of the Corn Belt gastroenteritis caused many deaths of young pigs. It is possible that the total pig crop will be up slightly less than the planned increase in farrowings. Estimates of crop size will be released June 20.

The crop definitely is early. In the 10 States, producers had 15 percent more sows farrow in December-February this season than last. Because smaller litters were saved, the number of pigs was up 12 percent (based on inventory of March 1). Only 1 percent more sows were due to farrow in March-May, the second half of the spring season.

The larger early-season marketings this fall that will result from this farrowing pattern will likely cause hog prices to start seasonally downward earlier than usual. Last year, prices of barrows and gilts at 8 markets reached their high point the first week of August and remained above \$20.00 per 100 pounds until the second week of September. Both the high mark and the decline will likely be earlier this year.

While early-season marketings will be larger, late-season marketings will not be greatly above last year. Hence the seasonal price reduction will likely be cut short and will not be extreme. Prices at their low point this fall are expected to be only moderately below their low of November last year.

Fall Pig Crop to
Increase

The fall pig crop also will increase, probably by a little more than the 5 to 6 percent gain in view for spring pigs. Producers in 10 States reporting in March indicated plans for 13 percent more June-August farrowings. If the same increase should continue in September-November, the gain in the fall crop would be very sizable. It seems likely, however, that producers intend to shift farrowings to the early part of the fall season just as they did in the spring season. Many sows that farrowed in December-January will be rebred for June-August farrowing.

The exceptionally high hog-corn ratio would of itself indicate a very large increase in fall farrowing. In January the ratio exceeded 20 for the first time since records began in 1909. The ratio was 18 in April. A normal level is about 12 or 12 1/2.

Farrowings this spring have increased only about a third as much as would have been expected from the hog-corn ratio of last fall. Farrowing this fall may again be less than what the current high ratio would ordinarily indicate. A 7 to 10 percent gain in fall farrowings appears likely.

At such an increase slaughter of hogs in the late winter, spring and early summer of 1959 would be considerably larger than in the same season of 1958. Prices to producers would be materially lower, but probably still above a normal relationship with the price of corn, and therefore profitable to most producers.

The price outlook is relatively favorable because supplies of pork per person would not be unusually large. The pork supply has been below average recently, and could increase somewhat without becoming burdensome. Also, output of beef will still be cyclically reduced.

While the prospects for returns from 1958 fall pigs are fairly bright, it may be the last time in several years when this will be true. Eventually, the high hog-corn price ratio will lead to a marked expansion in production and marketings. This could happen in 1959.

Variability Continues to
Mark Hog Industry

Rising prices for hogs the past year continue a record of great price variability. Since the end of the war prices to producers have successively advanced to more than \$27.00, declined below \$15.00, advanced again to above \$26.00, declined to \$10.60, and have now risen to more than \$20.00 (see cover chart).

These variations are damaging to producers, marketers and consumers, all of whom desire more stability in both supply and price.

Table 5.—Distribution of farrowings and hog slaughter,
by quarters, 1947 to date

Year	Farrowings				Commercial slaughter ^{2/}			
	Dec.- Feb. ^{1/}	Mar.- May	June- Aug.	Sept.- Nov.	Aug.- Oct.	Nov.- Jan.	Feb.- Apr.	May- July
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
1947	11.7	52.0	16.4	19.9	20.4	34.5	23.1	22.0
1948	10.5	50.2	17.7	21.6	19.6	33.5	25.5	21.4
1949	11.7	49.6	17.5	21.2	21.9	32.4	24.6	21.1
1950	11.6	49.1	17.3	22.0	21.5	31.9	24.3	22.3
1951	12.8	48.7	18.1	20.4	22.5	31.3	26.5	19.7
1952	14.1	48.0	19.3	18.6	23.9	33.1	24.6	18.4
1953	14.1	47.0	20.5	18.4	24.8	30.5	24.5	20.2
1954	16.1	44.4	21.7	17.8	24.0	30.4	25.7	19.9
1955	17.9	42.0	21.2	18.9	23.3	30.8	25.9	20.0
1956	19.8	39.8	20.6	19.8	25.5	28.7	24.7	21.1
1957	19.5	39.2	21.6	19.7	26.6	28.5	^{3/} 24.6	^{3/} 20.2
1958	^{3/} 20.5							

^{1/} December of previous year.

^{2/} Quarters correspond approximately to those of farrowing year beginning August as shown in stub.

^{3/} Estimated or forecast.

Price fluctuations since the war have originated chiefly in variations in supply. Although demand has not been constant, its trends have been slow and gradual. Annual pig crops have varied a good deal (cover chart). Moreover, a given change in hog production brings a sharper price response than it once did. Before the war, a change of 10 percent in supply of hogs caused about 17 or 18 percent change (in the opposite direction) in their price. Since the war, the price response has been 25 to 30 percent.

Price variability for hogs thus is so sharp not because supplies change more than before, but because the price effect of changing supplies is greater.

Seasonal Variation

Diminishing

The volume of production and slaughter of hogs has long been closely associated with the seasons of the year. Some progress has been made in smoothing seasonal variations. In recent years farrowings have become distributed much more evenly than formerly through all seasons. In 1947-50, only 11.4 percent of annual farrowings were in December-February (table 5). By 1957, this percentage had risen to 19.5, and in 1958 it may be about 20.5. June-August farrowings have increased relative to other months, and March-May farrowings have declined.

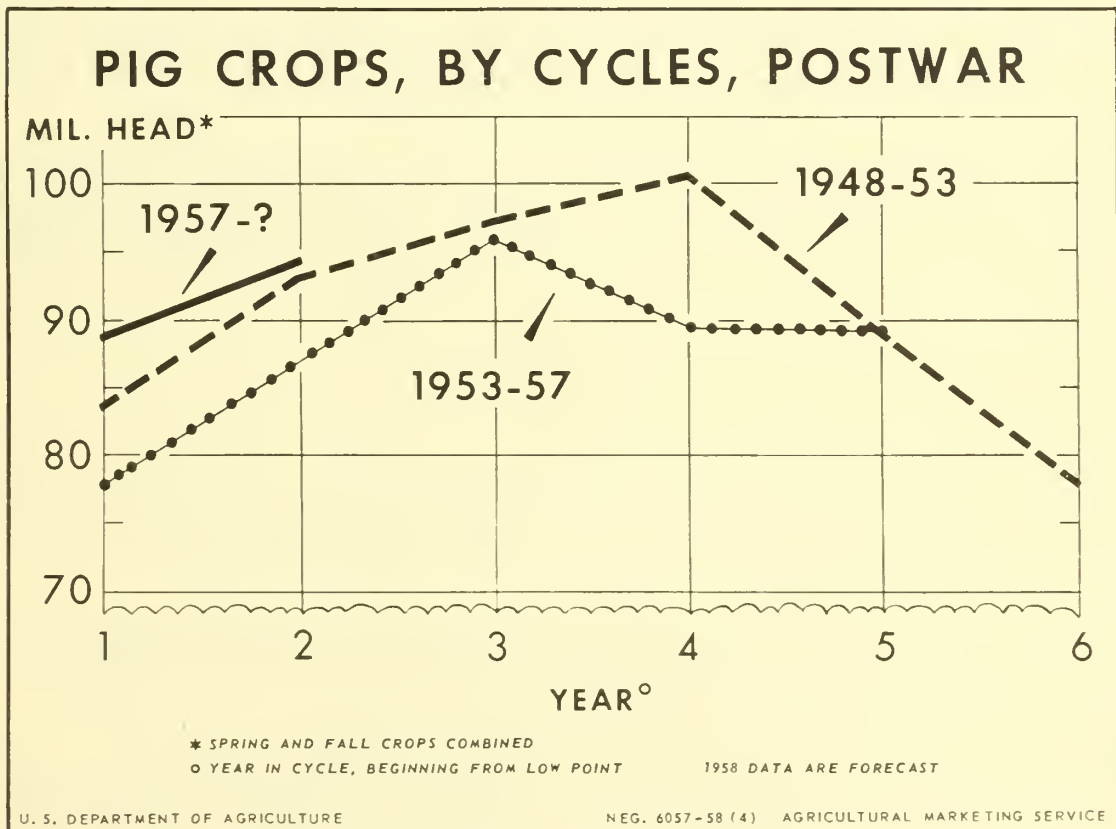
Slaughter has perhaps not yet been smoothed quite as much, yet the percentage of all slaughter falling in the peak November-January period has declined noticeably. At 33.1 percent in 1947-50, it was about 28.5 percent this year. May-July continues to be a low period in pork supplies.

A Cycle in Hogs

Two outstanding features of the longer variations in hogs since the war have been their increasing regularity and their lessened response to the hog-corn price ratio.

Both production and prices of hogs have moved in a fairly regular pattern. These are comparable with swings in cattle production and prices. It appears a hog cycle has emerged.

Evidence is the chart below, which graphs annual pig crops since 1948. Increases and decreases in crops in 1948-53, 1953-57, and 1957 to date are shown so that they may be compared directly. Although not identical, the patterns show much similarity. This is the same result as is obtained from a similar chart of cattle numbers by cycles.



Regular cycles in hogs have appeared only since corn storage programs were begun. Previously, annual hog production was closely tied to annual corn harvests. Because corn crops fluctuated erratically in size, hog production did too. Corn support programs have not in any sense achieved complete stability in the supply of corn available to feeders, or in its price. But they have resulted in a partial degree of stability. Corn support loans have been available to many producers each year and to all producers in a number of years. Corn in storage can be obtained by feeders either by redemption from loans or by sales by CCC.

The hog-corn ratio formerly was a reliable indicator of future changes in hog production. The ratio, though still useful, is a less accurate indicator than before. Being no longer linked so closely with corn, hog production is freer to change "on its own." It responds less directly to the hog-corn price ratio than previously, and there is some tendency for under-response and over-response to appear alternately. In the spring of 1955, for instance, farrowings increased by more than the normal reaction to the ratio of 12.8 the preceding fall. In the spring of 1956 they decreased only a little despite a low 11.4 ratio. In the spring of 1957 the reduction of 3 percent was about in line with the 12.3 ratio. In 1958 the 6 percent more spring pigs indicated by intentions is a much smaller gain than last fall's 16.9 ratio normally would have led to.

Increasing sensitivity of prices of hogs to changes in supply described above (page 16) adds to the cyclical force in hog production. Whenever production departs from normal for any reason, the sharp price reaction that follows tends to generate a further fluctuation in production.

On the basis of cyclical sequence, a fairly sharp expansion of hog production would be expected in 1959. In any event, the cyclical pattern just described seems regular enough to bear watching. One of the goals of the hog industry, as of the cattle industry, should be to reduce the amplitude of cyclical swings.

FOREIGN TRADE

Imports Larger

Imports of cattle, beef and lamb increased in 1957. Imports of pork decreased slightly. Meat exports were unchanged from a year before. Imports have continued relatively large in 1958. Foreign trade remains small in relation to domestic supplies.

Larger imports have been essentially a response to smaller supplies and rising prices in this country. Imports also increased in the 1948-52 period of relatively high prices.

Imports of cattle from Canada in 1957 were 391,000 head, the most since 1950 but less than in 1948-50 (table 6). Imports from Mexico were 336,000, which was the most since 1946. However, imports were prohibited during several postwar years, and last year's total was less than the prewar average.

Table 6.--Imports of cattle from Canada and Mexico,
average 1937-41, annual 1946 to date

From Canada							
Year	Dutiable cattle					Breed- ing cattle (free)	Total cattle
	700 pounds and over		Under 700 pounds		Total dutiable cattle		
	Cows for dairy purposes	Other	Under 200 pounds	200 to 699 pounds			
	Head	Head	Head	Head			
Average:							
1937-41	9,143	136,194	69,074	18,200	232,611	11,814	244,425
1946	64,737	182	9,345	3,113	77,377	41,919	119,296
1947	43,912	95	7,642	1,372	53,021	29,869	82,890
1948 1/	84,275	214,645	23,571	96,335	418,826	42,853	461,679
1949	49,061	194,916	41,535	126,614	412,126	21,332	433,458
1950	46,591	173,000	38,985	179,709	438,285	22,610	460,895
1951	35,600	117,455	15,609	51,103	219,767	19,120	238,887
1952 2/	4,636	4,244	714	968	10,562	2,222	12,784
1953 3/	21,811	22,931	3,515	896	49,153	20,757	69,910
1954	17,633	46,798	2,872	3,377	70,680	15,259	85,939
1955	25,252	17,543	3,256	2,218	48,269	18,334	66,603
1956	22,678	2,914	3,571	1,390	30,553	18,475	49,028
1957	18,857	186,036	10,486	151,059	366,438	24,818	391,256
From Mexico							
Average:							
1937-41	0	45,752	21,255	307,030	374,037	436	374,473
1946 4/	1,348	25,714	708	410,552	438,322	152	438,474
1947 5/	0	792	0	638	1,430	---	1,430
1948	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1949	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1950	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1951	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1952 6/	2,381	43,617	96	81,185	127,279	---	127,279
1953 7/	175	25,364	485	101,901	127,925	2	127,927
1954	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1955 8/	1,424	56,153	539	189,631	247,747	4	247,751
1956	1,684	11,124	848	96,594	110,250	6	110,256
1957	480	44,236	7,914	283,842	336,472	5	336,477

1/ Wartime restrictions lifted Aug. 16, 1948. 2/ Imports prohibited beginning Feb. 25, 1952 due to foot-and-mouth disease. 3/ Embargo removed March 1, 1953. 4/ Imports prohibited beginning Dec. 27, 1946 due to foot-and-mouth disease. 5/ Imports actually entered in Dec. 1946. 6/ Embargo removed Sept. 1, 1952. 7/ Imports prohibited beginning May 23, 1953. 8/ Embargo removed Jan. 1, 1955.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Compiled from Foreign Commerce and Navigation of the United States and official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 7 .--Foreign trade in meat and lard, 1948 to date 1/

Year	Meat (carcass weight equivalent)								Exports and ship- ments of lard 2/
	Exports and shipments to Territories				Imports				
	Beef and veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork	All meats	Beef and veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork	All meats	
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	
1948	48	5	85	138	356	3	1	360	327
1949	29	3	110	142	254	4	3	261	667
1950	23	2	110	135	348	3	33	384	523
1951	20	1	136	157	484	7	51	542	743
1952	30	1	154	185	429	6	71	506	694
1953	3/60	2	134	196	271	3	164	438	476
1954	3/64	2	105	171	226	2	184	412	521
1955	68	1	126	195	222	2	175	399	619
1956	117	2	138	257	204	1	151	356	671
1957	120	3	144	267	376	4	144	524	563
:									

1/ See table 21, Livestock and Meat Situation for March 6, 1957 for detail.

2/ Includes voluntary relief shipments. 1948-52 includes military-civilian feeding.

3/ Includes beef procured by USDA and shipped abroad by CARE.

Beef and veal imports last year were the equivalent of 376 million pounds, carcass weight (table 7). This was almost twice the 1956 quantity and was the most since 1952. Largest sources of 1957 imports were Argentina, New Zealand and Canada with 86, 50, and 47 million pounds (product weight), respectively (table 8). Last year's pork imports of 144 million pounds, carcass weight equivalent, were a little less than the year before and below the average of recent years (table 7). The Netherlands, Poland, Canada and Denmark were the largest suppliers (table 8). The 4 million pounds of lamb imported came chiefly from Australia and New Zealand.

In relation to production in the United States, beef imports in 1957 were 2.6 percent, pork, 1.4 percent, and lamb, 0.6 percent.

Exports of pork exceeded those of beef last year, and each was about the same as in 1956 (table 7).

Table 8.--United States foreign trade in meat, by countries, 1956 and 1957

Product and year	Exports and shipments, product weight												Total exports and shipments	
	Exports, by destination												Shipments to Territories 1/	
	Canada	Mexico	Cuba	Netherlands	West Germany	Spain	Turkey-Israel	Korean Rep.	All other	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Product weight	Carcass weight equivalent
Beef and veal														
1956	14.4	.3	.3	.3	2/	47.7	---	2/	12.8	89.3	12.9	102.2	117	
1957	13.7	.3	.2	2/	2/	35.9	14.5	2/	11.7	88.6	12.4	101.0	120	
Lamb and mutton														
1956	.2	2/	.1	---	---	---	---	2/	.3	.6	---	.6	2	
1957	.8	2/	2/	---	---	---	---	2/	.3	1.3	---	1.3	3	
Pork														
1956	.1	4.4	35.9	7.9	11.4	---	---	.5	15.4	75.6	47.5	123.1	138	
1957	1.2	4.8	29.5	4.4	5.4	4.9	2/	11.2	16.5	78.0	45.8	123.8	144	
Total meat 3/														
1956	15.4	5.5	36.9	8.2	11.5	47.7	---	.9	35.9	175.5	78.3	253.9	257	
1957	17.0	5.9	30.3	4.4	5.5	40.8	14.6	14.8	38.4	183.9	76.6	260.5	267	
Imports														
Product weight, by country of origin														
	Canada	Mexico	Argentina	Uruguay	Denmark	Ireland	Netherlands	West Germany	Poland	Australia	New Zealand	All other	Total	Total imports, carcass weight equivalent
Beef and veal														
1956	11.9	6.5	73.1	3.7	2/	4.2	---	2/	---	2.9	4.3	5.3	111.9	204
1957	47.4	12.9	86.3	11.4	2/	6.5	---	2/	---	5.5	50.0	12.4	232.5	376
Lamb and mutton														
1956	2/	2/	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	.9	.4	2/	1.4	1
1957	.5	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	1.4	1.7	2/	3.5	4
Pork														
1956	51.1	.1	2/	---	17.9	2/	33.4	8.3	25.9	---	---	2.7	139.4	151
1957	27.4	2/	---	---	25.8	.1	37.8	5.9	28.7	2/	2/	7.2	133.0	144
Total meat														
1956	63.0	6.6	73.1	3.7	17.9	4.3	33.4	8.3	25.9	3.9	4.7	7.9	252.6	356
1957	75.3	12.9	86.3	11.4	25.8	6.7	37.8	5.9	28.7	6.9	51.7	19.7	369.1	524

1/ Guam, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands. 2/ Less than 50,000 pounds. 3/ Includes sausage, bologna and frankfurters canned and not canned, sausage ingredients, meat and meat products canned n.e.c., and canned baby food.

All data from official records of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 9.--Inspected imports of cattle, beef, and pork,
January-March 1958 compared with 1957 1/

Month	Cattle				Beef and veal		Pork	
	From Canada		From Mexico					
	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957	1958	1957
	Head	Head	Head	Head	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.	1,000 lb.
Jan.	58,331	1,901	54,810	19,111	38,886	11,697	15,142	17,864
Feb.	35,534	2,771	52,018	20,182	27,251	11,493	13,818	9,779
Mar.	59,800	3,927	39,712	31,357	32,596	13,921	14,792	9,141
Total:	153,665	8,599	146,540	70,650	2/98,733	37,111	2/43,752	36,784

1/ Inspected when offered for importation. 2/ Breakdown by countries of origin as follows:

	Beef		Pork			Beef		Pork	
	1,000 lb.		1,000 lb.			1,000 lb.		1,000 lb.	
Argentina	36,848		2		Denmark	23		10,106	
Canada	15,663		12,660		Holland	27		11,426	
Mexico	16,041		20		Poland	---		7,920	
New Zealand	14,767		1		Others	15,364		1,617	

Compiled from reports of the Meat Inspection Division of Agricultural Research Service as published in Market News.

Imports of cattle from both Canada and Mexico continued relatively large in the first 3 months of 1958. Each averaged about 50,000 head a month (table 9). Meat imports also continued above a year before. In general, the sources had not changed much from last year.

Shipments of cattle from New Zealand to the U.S. have been planned by suppliers in that nation. Two entry permits were issued by the Animal Inspection and Quarantine Division of the Agricultural Research Service. However, by May 1 no animals had been received and the permits had lapsed. It is understood that plans had been postponed but not abandoned. At one time the New Zealand Government had authorized its exporters to ship 10,000 cattle to the United States.

Table 10 presents summary data on U.S. tariff duties on cattle and beef.

Table 10.-- Tariff rates on U.S. imports of cattle and beef

Product	Rate
Cattle:	
Dairy cows (over 700 lb.)	1½ cents per lb.
Breeding stock	Free
Other cattle	
up to 200 lb.	First 200,000 head, 1½ cents per lb. <u>1</u> / All over 200,000 head, 2½ cents per lb.
200-700 lb.	2½ cents per lb.
over 700 lb.	First 400,000 head, 1½ cents per lb. <u>1</u> / <u>2</u> / All over 400,000 head, 2½ cents per lb.
Beef:	
Fresh, chilled or frozen	3 cents per lb.
Canned or cured, valued at	
not over 15 cents per lb.	3 cents per lb.
over 15 cents per lb.	20 percent ad valorem

1/ Year beginning April 1. 2/ Only 120,000 head are allowed entry at the low rate during any quarter beginning April 1, July 1, Oct. 1, or Jan. 1.

Foreign Agricultural Service

DEMAND AND PRICE AT RETAIL

Consumer Demand Relatively Strong

Through April, the decline in incomes of consumers had not had a measurable effect on prices of meat and of meat animals.

Incomes have been reduced only slowly. Although employment and industrial activity are down, severance pay, unemployment benefits, and normal delay in receipt of some forms of income have prevented sharp declines in income. Moreover, when incomes turn downward, expenditures for food do not drop off as fast as those for less essential items. Just as the livestock industry did not feel a fully proportionate benefit of the rising incomes up to 1957, they will not feel as much impact from the 1958 decline as will some other industries.

Nevertheless, demand for meat has doubtless weakened. The drop has not been felt because the supply of meat decreased much more. In January-March, supplies of meat for consumption per person were 9 percent less than a year before. As meat prices are always sensitive to changes in supplies, a price increase resulted.

Prices of meat at retail averaged about 15 percent higher in January-March than in the same period of 1957. The retail value of consumption, which is a rough indicator of consumers' expenditures for meat, was up approximately 5 percent. The increase would doubtless have been a little greater if consumers' incomes had not declined.

Prices Highest Since 1952

Prices of meat at retail have increased each month since November. Their index in March has 118.8 (1947-49=100). This was the highest since October 1952 but less than earlier peaks. Each meat was still considerably below its previous highs.

Meat prices generally followed the consumer price index from 1947 to 1953 (see chart on inside cover). Since the spring of 1953, meat prices have been below the consumer price index. In March they were 4 percent below.

Retail Prices to Change Little Through Summer, Decline in Fall

Depending on how many cattle are withheld from the market for inventory expansion, the January-March quarter may have been the low point in meat supplies (except for normal seasonal variation). These continue to be years of large livestock production, and the reduction in slaughter in 1957 and 1958 is merely a cyclical interlude occasioned by a coincidence of restocking of cattle, hogs and sheep herds at the same time.

Slaughter of cows will remain limited for some time and will restrict the supply of beef of the lower grades, but slaughter of fed cattle will increase this spring. Larger supplies of fed beef will bring moderately lower prices. The somewhat lower level may continue most of the year.

Larger price declines are in prospect for pork. Until midsummer, supplies of pork will not be much different from a year before, although they might increase a bit. This is the high price season of the year, and little change from recent prices is expected. Later, rising output of pork will be accompanied by declining prices. Pork prices this fall may be a little below those of last fall.

Lamb prices may prove fairly steady for the year as a whole. Prices will probably advance for new-crop spring lamb, and decline later. Their general level may be about the same as last year.

Table 11.--Production and consumption per person of red meat and poultry, 1955-57 and forecast for 1958

Production <u>1/</u>							
Year	Red meat					Poultry	Red and
	Beef	Veal	Lamb and mutton	Pork	Total	meat <u>2/</u>	poultry meat
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.
1955	13,569	1,578	758	10,991	26,896	4,400	31,296
1956	14,462	1,632	741	11,218	28,053	5,197	32,250
1957	14,211	1,528	707	10,482	26,928	5,458	32,386
1958 <u>3/</u>	13,400	1,400	675	10,650	26,125	5,590	31,715
Consumption per person							
	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.	Lb.
1955	82.0	9.4	4.6	66.8	162.8	26.4	189.2
1956	85.4	9.5	4.4	67.4	166.7	29.8	196.5
1957	84.5	8.8	4.2	61.5	159.0	31.5	190.5
1958 <u>3/</u>	78	7.8	3.9	61	151	31.6	183

1/ Production of red meat is carcass weight equivalent of production from total United States slaughter.

2/ Chicken, including commercial broilers, and turkey. Ready-to-cook (eviscerated) basis.

3/ Forecast.

1958 Meat Consumption Down

Meat production in January-March was 8 percent below 1957, and for the entire first half may average about 6 percent below. Second half production will be close to that of last year, but the 1958 total is expected to be about 3 percent less than in 1957 and 7 percent below the 1956 record (table 11). 1958 consumption per person is forecast at 151 pounds, 8 pounds less than in 1957. Biggest reduction is in beef, down from last year's 84½ pounds to 78 pounds. Small decreases are in prospect for each of the other meats.

NEW OR REVISED SERIES

Table 12 ranks the 48 States according to the live weight of livestock production on farms in 1957. These data include the weight added on stock brought into a State for feeding. Tables 13 and 14 bring to date previous tables on production and distribution of canned meat and edible offal.

Table 12.—Rank of States in live weight of farm production of meat animals, 1957 1/

Rank	Cattle and calves		Sheep and lambs		Hogs	
	State	Production	State	Production	State	Production
		Mil. lb.		Mil. lb.		Mil. lb.
1	Iowa	2,327	Texas	114	Iowa	4,166
2	Texas	2,227	California	108	Illinois	2,577
3	Nebraska	1,554	Iowa	97	Indiana	1,585
4	Illinois	1,516	Wyoming	91	Missouri	1,354
5	Missouri	1,286	Idaho	87	Minnesota	1,307
6	Minnesota	1,264	Colorado	82	Ohio	950
7	Kansas	1,178	Montana	81	Nebraska	759
8	California	1,132	South Dakota	76	Wisconsin	737
9	South Dakota	1,090	Minnesota	68	South Dakota	536
10	Oklahoma	953	Utah	64	Georgia	414
11	Wisconsin	935	Ohio	59	Tennessee	410
12	Montana	773	Missouri	59	Kentucky	399
13	Indiana	743	Oregon	51	North Carolina	396
14	Colorado	658	New Mexico	43	Kansas	304
15	Ohio	623	Illinois	42	Alabama	280
16	North Dakota	615	Nebraska	41	Texas	271
17	Mississippi	571	Kentucky	40	Michigan	248
18	Kentucky	480	North Dakota	40	Virginia	213
19	Michigan	452	Kansas	40	Pennsylvania	170
20	Alabama	448	Indiana	31	Mississippi	161
21	Louisiana	439	Virginia	21	South Carolina	156
22	Idaho	420	Michigan	21	North Dakota	146
23	Tennessee	409	Nevada	21	Oklahoma	143
24	Arkansas	405	Arizona	20	Arkansas	125
25	Pennsylvania	384	Tennessee	18	Florida	99
26	New York	382	West Virginia	18	California	98
27	Oregon	377	Washington	16	Louisiana	91
28	Wyoming	358	Wisconsin	16	Maryland	61
29	Florida	334	Oklahoma	12	Colorado	52
30	Georgia	333	Pennsylvania	10	Oregon	49
31	Washington	330	New York	10	New York	46
32	Virginia	330	Alabama	4	West Virginia	42
33	New Mexico	316	Mississippi	3	Washington	41
34	Arizona	264	Maryland	3	Montana	40
35	Utah	195	North Carolina	3	Idaho	36
36	North Carolina	182	Arkansas	3	New Jersey	36
37	Nevada	158	Georgia	2	Massachusetts	29
38	West Virginia	128	Louisiana	2	Utah	19
39	Maryland	126	Maine	2	New Mexico	14
40	South Carolina	123	New Jersey	1	Delaware	12
41	Vermont	66	Vermont	1	Wyoming	9
42	New Jersey	47	Connecticut	1	Arizona	8
43	Maine	37	South Carolina	2/	Maine	6
44	Connecticut	29	Massachusetts	2/	Nevada	5
45	Massachusetts	27	Florida	2/	Connecticut	5
46	New Hampshire	19	New Hampshire	2/	New Hampshire	4
47	Delaware	14	Delaware	2/	Vermont	4
48	Rhode Island	3	Rhode Island	2/	Rhode Island	3
United States		27,058			1,525	18,617

1/ Live weight produced during year by livestock on farms. Preliminary data.

2/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Table 13.--Edible offals: Supply and distribution, 1950 to date

Year	Supply				Distribution				
	Total	Beginning			Ending	Commercial	Domestic disappearance		
	production	commercial	Imports	Total	commercial	Exports and			Per
	1/	stocks			stocks	shipments to	Military	Civilian	capita
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Territories 2/	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
1950	1,519	62	9	1,590	59	3	4/	1,528	10.2
1951	1,501	59	8	1,568	64	6	4/	1,498	9.9
1952	1,577	64	8	1,649	69	4	4/	1,576	10.3
1953	1,704	69	7	1,780	59	29	4/	1,692	10.6
1954	1,743	59	6	1,808	65	46	4/	1,697	10.7
1955	1,853	65	6	1,924	70	70	4/	1,784	11.0
1956	1,933	70	7	2,010	59	99	4/	1,852	11.2
1957 5/	1,854	59	21	1,934	6/	91	4/	1,784	10.6

1/ Production of offals based on percentage of carcass-weight meat production, including farm: beef 6.7, veal 10.7, lamb and mutton 5.1, pork excluding lard 6.7 percent. 2/ Exports only beginning 1951. Beginning 1952 includes small quantities of sausage ingredients reported in Bureau of Census classification "other meats except canned (including edible animal organs)." 3/ Civilian per capita. 4/ Less than 500,000 pounds. 5/ Preliminary. 6/ Not reported. Assumed no change in stocks during the year.

Table 14.--Canned meat: Supply and distribution, 1950 to date

Year	Imports						Domestic disappearance		
	Federally			Beginning	Commercial	Ending			
	inspected	Canned	Canned	stocks	Exports and	stocks	Military	Civilian	Per
	1/	beef 2/	pork 3/	4/	5/	4/		7/	capita
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
1950	1,231	125	19	27	20	27	50	1,305	8.7
1951	1,441	154	31	27	21	35	246	1,351	8.9
1952	1,351	120	54	35	19	37	58	1,440	9.4
1953	1,437	100	97	37	9/29	34	50	10/1,558	10/10.0
1954	1,441	85	113	34	9/32	54	34	1,553	9.8
1955	1,506	67	107	54	22	37	38	10/1,659	10/10.2
1956	1,710	73	97	37	28	51	18	10/1,820	10/11.0
1957	1,659	95	106	51	43	57	23	1,790	10.0

1/ Beef, pork, sausage, all other, excluding soup. Data from Meat Inspection Branch, ARS.

2/ Data from Department of Commerce.

3/ Federally inspected for entry. Data from Meat Inspection Branch, ARS.

4/ Refrigerated stocks only.

5/ Includes shipments to Territories. Data from Department of Commerce.

6/ From Statistical Yearbook of the Quartermaster Corps and other military records.

7/ Calculated from federally inspected supplies and distribution as shown. Federally inspected production is the largest part of total U. S. production of canned meats.

8/ Civilian per capita.

9/ Includes small quantities of canned beef and gravy procured by USDA and shipped abroad by CARE.

10/ Includes canned meat bought by the Department of Agriculture for school lunches and eligible institutions.

Supply and distribution of meat, by months, 1958

Period	Commercially produced								Total 2/		
	Supply			Distribution					Civilian consumption		
	Production	Beginning stocks	Imports	Exports and shipments	Ending stocks	Military	Civilian consumption		Production	Total	Per person
							Total	Per person 1/			
	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.	Mil. lb.	Mil. lb.	Lb.
Beef:											
January	1,210	134	43	5	135	31	1,216	7.1	---	---	---
February	961	135	60	5	116	28	1,007	5.9	---	---	---
March	986	116			109	36			---	---	---
1st quarter	3,157	134			109	95				3/	19.5
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
Veal:											
January	106	13	1	4/	12	4	104	.6	---	---	---
February	86	12	4/	4/	10	3	85	.5	---	---	---
March	92	10			9	2			---	---	---
1st quarter	284	13			9	9				3/	1.7
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
Lamb and mutton:											
January	59	5	1	4/	5	4/	60	.4	---	---	---
February	53	5	1	4/	4	4/	55	.3	---	---	---
March	56	4			5	1			---	---	---
1st quarter	168	5			5	1				3/	1.0
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
Pork:											
January	892	194	15	10	218	15	858	5.0	---	---	---
February	709	218	13	11	228	14	687	4.0	---	---	---
March	774	228			224	20			---	---	---
1st quarter	2,375	194			224	49				3/	15
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											
All meat:											
January	2,267	346	60	15	370	50	2,238	13.1	---	---	---
February	1,809	370	74	16	358	45	1,834	10.8	---	---	---
March	1,908	358			347	59			---	---	---
1st quarter	5,984	346			347	154				3/	37
April											
May											
June											
2nd quarter											

1/ Derived from estimates by months of population eating out of civilian food supplies, unadjusted for underenumeration.

2/ Includes production and consumption from farm slaughter.

3/ Estimated.

4/ Less than 500,000 pounds.

Selected price statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957		1958	
		March	April	February	March
					April
Cattle and calves					
Beef steers, slaughter	Dollars per				
Chicago, Prime	100 pounds	24.38	25.49	31.68	35.27
Choice	do.	21.86	22.99	27.54	29.90
Good	do.	19.95	20.69	24.93	26.61
Standard	do.	17.54	17.66	22.55	24.34
Commercial	do.	---	---	---	---
Utility	do.	15.81	16.03	20.24	22.26
All grades	do.	21.36	22.61	26.65	28.28
Omaha, all grades	do.	20.46	21.33	25.11	26.57
Sioux City, all grades	do.	20.10	21.22	24.39	26.10
Cows, Chicago					
Commercial	do.	14.12	14.51	17.81	19.19
Utility	do.	13.03	13.45	16.80	17.85
Canner and Cutter	do.	11.76	11.81	15.09	15.96
Vealers, Choice, Chicago	do.	26.69	25.08	33.05	32.15
Stocker and feeder steers, Kansas City 1/	do.	19.35	20.86	24.35	25.79
Price received by farmers					
Beef cattle	do.	16.00	16.90	20.60	21.70
Calves	do.	17.60	18.40	23.40	24.00
Hogs					
Barrows and gilts					
Chicago					
160-180 pounds	do.	16.06	16.75	19.03	19.77
180-200 pounds	do.	17.26	18.02	20.23	21.17
200-220 pounds	do.	17.60	18.34	20.54	21.54
220-240 pounds	do.	17.58	18.30	20.44	21.53
240-270 pounds	do.	17.31	17.96	20.04	21.23
270-300 pounds	do.	17.05	17.67	19.62	20.88
All weights	do.	17.28	17.96	20.12	21.26
8 markets 2/	do.	17.25	17.95	20.16	21.20
Sows, Chicago	do.	15.82	16.04	18.08	19.05
Price received by farmers	do.	16.90	17.40	19.70	20.30
Hog-corn price ratio 3/					
Chicago, barrows and gilts		13.4	13.8	17.8	18.2
Price received by farmers, all hogs		14.1	14.4	20.6	20.3
Sheep and lambs	Dollars per				
Sheep	100 pounds				
Slaughter ewes, Good and Choice, Chicago	do.	9.24	7.50	9.50	9.50
Price received by farmers	do.	6.15	5.92	8.25	8.37
Lambs					
Slaughter, Choice and Prime, Chicago	do.	23.58	24.28	4/24.31	4/23.40
Feeder, Good and Choice, Omaha	do.	20.98	21.75	4/23.97	4/23.47
Price received by farmers	do.	19.80	20.80	22.00	21.50
All meat animals					
Index number price received by farmers (1910-14=100)		263	275	324	336
Meat					
Wholesale, Chicago	Dollars per				
Steer beef carcass, Choice, 500-600 pounds	100 pounds	36.25	37.59	45.05	47.24
Lamb carcass, Choice, 45-55 pounds	do.	43.84	46.38	49.78	48.69
Composite hog products:					
Including lard					
71.90 pounds fresh	Dollars	19.77	20.16	22.37	23.07
Average per 100 pounds	do.	27.50	29.29	31.11	32.09
71.01 pounds fresh and cured	do.	23.22	23.75	26.18	27.07
Average per 100 pounds	do.	32.70	33.45	36.87	38.12
Excluding lard					
55.99 pounds fresh and cured	do.	20.56	21.19	23.80	24.62
Average per 100 pounds	do.	36.72	37.85	42.51	43.97
Retail, United States average	Cents				
Beef, Choice grade	per pound	65.7	68.4	78.4	80.7
Pork, excluding lard	do.	56.6	57.4	63.1	64.2
Index number meat prices (BLS)					
Wholesale (1947-49=100)		82.2	86.7	102.4	106.1
Retail (1947-49=100) 5/		102.4	104.5	116.7	118.8

1/ Average all weights and grades.

2/ Chicago, St. Louis N. S. Y., Kansas City, Omaha, Sioux City, S. St. Joseph, S. St. Paul, and Indianapolis.

3/ Number bushels of corn equivalent in value to 100 pounds of live hogs.

4/ Choice grade.

5/ Includes beef and veal, pork, leg of lamb and other meats.

Selected marketing, slaughter and stocks statistics for meat animals and meat

Item	Unit	1957		1958	
		March	April	February	March
					April
Meat animal marketings					
Index number (1947-49=100)		109	114	100	100
Stocker and feeder shipments to					
9 Corn Belt States	1,000				
Cattle and calves	head	237	212	256	285
Sheep and lambs	do.	127	113	121	117
Slaughter under Federal inspection					
Number slaughtered					
Cattle	do.	1,514	1,499	1,309	1,360
Steers	do.	822	836	678	706
Heifers	do.	236	232	245	258
Cows	do.	428	403	365	373
Bulls and stags	do.	27	27	21	23
Calves	do.	632	613	468	521
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,011	1,061	940	996
Hogs	do.	5,380	5,000	4,453	4,818
Percentage sows	Percent	6	8	5	6
Average live weight per head					
Cattle	Pounds	1,004	997	1,018	1,008
Calves	do.	191	198	202	189
Sheep and lambs	do.	102	98	104	104
Hogs	do.	234	238	230	233
Average production					
Beef, per head	do.	564	561	566	556
Veal, per head	do.	108	112	111	107
Lamb and mutton, per head	do.	49	48	51	51
Pork, per head	do.	131	133	131	135
Pork, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	56	56	57	58
Lard, per head	do.	36	36	33	32
Lard, per 100 pounds live weight	do.	15	15	14	14
Total production	Million				
Beef	pounds	850	838	738	754
Veal	do.	68	68	51	56
Lamb and mutton	do.	50	51	47	50
Pork	do.	703	661	584	648
Lard	do.	191	182	146	155
Commercial slaughter <u>1/</u>					
Number slaughtered	1,000				
Cattle	head	2,041	2,032	1,767	1,842
Calves	do.	1,025	990	775	867
Sheep and lambs	do.	1,142	1,213	1,052	1,117
Hogs	do.	6,381	5,977	5,421	5,792
Total production	Million				
Beef	pounds	1,099	1,085	961	986
Veal	do.	112	113	86	92
Lamb and mutton	do.	56	57	53	56
Pork	do.	831	786	709	774
Lard	do.	215	206	170	177
Cold storage stocks first of month					
Beef	do.	204	180	135	116
Veal	do.	16	15	12	10
Lamb and mutton	do.	9	8	5	4
Pork	do.	333	352	218	228
Total meat and meat products <u>2/</u>	do.	634	629	429	425
					418

1/ Federally inspected, and other wholesale and retail.2/ Includes stocks of canned meats in cooler in addition to the four meats listed.

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